

NEIGHBORHOOD POWER

WHEREAS there is a need for citizen input on all levels of planning and decision making on local, state and federal on issues such as housing, health services, police protection, education and others and

WHEREAS NEIGHBORHOOD residents have faced the dilemma of unresponsiveness by public and private agencies, and by their elected officials, and

WHEREAS it has become necessary for neighborhood residents to take a more active role in determining the direction in which their neighborhood and lives must go,

BE IT RESOLVED that neighborhood residents institute a vigorous organizing campaign with the goal of establishing an effective network of "Block Associations" that would develop leadership and create a well informed and active community that can effectively advocate for neighborhood rights,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that included in the network is every phase of community life; whereby citizen pressure ensures the participation of local churches, businesses, educational institutions, and social and civic organizations.

WHEREAS there has been a continual pattern of disinvestment by local banks in neighborhoods which has resulted in the growing deterioration and abandonment of the existing housing stock in our neighborhoods and,

WHEREAS the banking institutions continue to deny poor people the means of acquiring loans for repairs and decent housing via means of discriminatory lending practices.

BE IT RESOLVED that neighborhood organizations monitor the investment practices of local banks and encourage citizens to support only those institutions that demonstrate a record of substantial reinvestment in their communities.

WHEREAS there is a need for neighborhoods to begin to develop a more effective mechanism to ensure a voice in legislation that concerns neighborhoods and

WHEREAS citizens have experienced much disappointment with their elected officials in the past which has resulted in these officials not fulfilling the needs of our neighborhoods,

AND WHEREAS a significant amount of the disaffection of voters with their elected representatives has resulted in low voter turnout which has had the effect of diminishing citizen participation

BE IT RESOLVED that community based organizations monitor the performance of our elected officials and disseminate information to its neighborhood to appropriately identify political representatives who actively support and initiate issues and legislation in the interest of neighborhoods.

BE IT FURTHER resolved that neighborhood based organizations actively conduct voter registration drives, and urge citizen participation in the electoral process to ensure representation sensitive to their needs.